on electronic hardware used for educational purposes before the National Literacy Mission. No such request, however, is pending with the Central Government.

Gold Smuggling:

1711. SHRl YALLA SESI BHU-SHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the "unabated gold smuggling" into India is mostly financed by the parallel foreign exchange market;

(b) how much gold is estimated to be illegally brought into our country annually;

(c) whether Government propose to permit the Non-Resident Indians to import gold in order to help attract funds into the country;

(d) whether the levy of 20 per cent import duty will increase revenue to the Government and help in the fall of price of gold in India; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) and (d) above be in the affirmative what are +he reasons for not agreeing to it by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl A JIT PANJA): (a) No specific reports are available with the Government to indicate the existence of any parallel foreign exchange market for financing smuggling of contraband gold into India.

(b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of gold being smuggled into the country annually.

(c) Rangarajan Committee which examined this issue has not favoured import of gold by N.R.I.'s.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, (d) & (e) do not arise.

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Dowry Deaths

@1712. SHRl SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether dowry deaths are on the increase in the country and if so, the reasons thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken;

(b) what was the State-wise and year-wise, position of such deaths in the country for the last three years; and

(c) whether an scientific studies have been conducted regarding dowry deaths and if so, the results thereof yand the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A statement showing State-wise and Union territory-wise the number of cases reported as 'dowry deaths' during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 is enclosed. (See below).

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, has been amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the law more stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Pro | cedure Code. 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have also been amended to deal effectively not only with such cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women.

(c) No scientific study of dowry deaths has been conducted on an all j India basis. However, in 1986 the Bureau of Police Research and Development conducted a study of unnatural deaths of married women with special reference to dowry deaths in the Union Territory of Delhi.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1080, transferred from the 18th Nov-i ember, 1988.

Statement

States/Union Territories	1985	1986	1987
	13	79	98
	1	9	3
	16	62	120
	10	9	23
	99	47 upto Feb. 87	
	3	3	]
	NIL	NIL	in
	35	54	83
	5	4	2
	153	200	220
Maharashtra	136	107	250
	NIL	NIL	NIL
Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	NIL
Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL
	NIL	NIL	?
Punjab	32	40	70
	29	84	113
Sikkim	NIL	NIL	NIL
Tamil Nadu	12	38	49
	NIL	NTL	3
Uttar Pradesh	323	461	553
West Bengal	88	58	97
	NIL	NIL	NIL
Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL
	2	NIL	NIL
D&NHaveli	NTL	NIL	NIL
	43	64	79
	NIL	NIL	NIL
Lakshadweep	NIL	NIL upto Aug. 87	NIL
	NIL	NIL	NA.
	NTL	NIL	NIL

NOTE: (1) Figures are based on monthly crime statistics and may, therefore, be treated as provisional

(2) Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram attained the statu$_s$ of Statehood in 1986.

(3) Goa attained the status of State- hood in May, 1987 and was s- .epa-rated from the TIT. of Daman & Diu. Figures for the year 1987 are of Goa States only as U.T. of Daman and Diu did not supply any figures for the year 1987.

(4) N.A. stands for Not Available.